

Remarks/Arguments:

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,555,851) ("Lee") and further in view of Fleenor et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,550,97) (Fleenor).

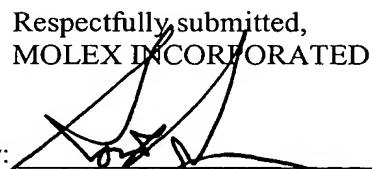
It is respectfully submitted that there are aspects of the instant invention that are not taught, suggest or implied by Lee and Fleenor either singularly or in combination. Fleenor shows the keying feature of the optical connector formed directly on the ferrule holder of the plug housing, which does not allow any rotational tuning of the connector system. In particular, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a key ring rotatably mounted about the ferrule holder and fixable on the ferrule holder at selected positions of rotational adjustment". The ferrule holder of Fleenor can not be dynamically rotationally adjusted. Claims 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been similarly amended.

In contrast, Fleenor describes a connector having radial float for tuning purposes and therefore actually teaches away from rotational adjustment (see column 8 lines 36-37). The objective of the invention of the present application is to provide an optical connector that can be reliably tuned. By incorporating the structure shown in the Fleenor, this objective is lost.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are not taught, suggested or implied by the prior art. Accordingly, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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